

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20304

6 August 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR The Secretaries of the Military Departments
The Director of Defense Research and Engineering
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Assistant Secretaries of Defense
The Assistants to the Secretary of Defense
The Directors of the Defense Agencies

SUBJECT: Reporting on Incidents Involving the DoD (U)

The Secretary of Defense and I wish to re-emphasize to all DoD components the importance of reporting correctly and expeditiously information on any incident involving DoD activities which is likely to provoke national or international attention (e.g., the collision of the USS MEDREGAL, the grounding of the USS FRANK KNOX, the RF-101 sortie in France, and the attempted flight of B-57's by Marine enlisted personnel). The security and public affairs aspects of such incidents frequently require action at the highest levels of our Government.

We therefore wish to reaffirm that the Joint Chiefs of Staff are responsible for the expeditious collection and reporting of information on incidents involving (1) forces assigned or attached to the unified and specified commands, and (2) organizational entities which report to the Secretary of Defense through the Joint Chiefs of Staff (e.g., DIA, DCA).

In addition, we also wish to have procedures established so that information on incidents involving other DoD organizations (e.g., MATS, MSTC, training commands of the military departments, NSA) which is forwarded to an appropriate headquarters is also concurrently forwarded to the NMCC, particularly when incidents involving other DoD organizations are of such seriousness as to provoke national level attention.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the heads of other DoD organizations, as appropriate, are requested to institute the necessary procedures so that the objectives set forth above may be achieved and to notify all DoD activities accordingly. These new procedures should supplement those procedures which have already been established to guide

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the tasks of the NMCC and should be within the framework of the specialized arrangements that already have been provided for reporting certain covert and clandestine operational and intelligence activities (e.g., JRC and SACSA activities).

Once the Joint Chiefs of Staff have instituted the procedures outlined above, all senior DoD military and civilian personnel (e.g., the Secretaries of the military departments, the Service Chiefs, the Assistant Secretaries of Defense) should avail themselves of NMCC's capability to obtain information on incidents involving DoD components and activities.

Cyrus Vance

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